The Lions' Pride

THE LIONS' PRIDE MEDIA GROUP

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Tech Changes in the Community Pt. 3

Sharing is Caring:Lions Share

By John Hall

Layout Editor &

Editor-In-Chief

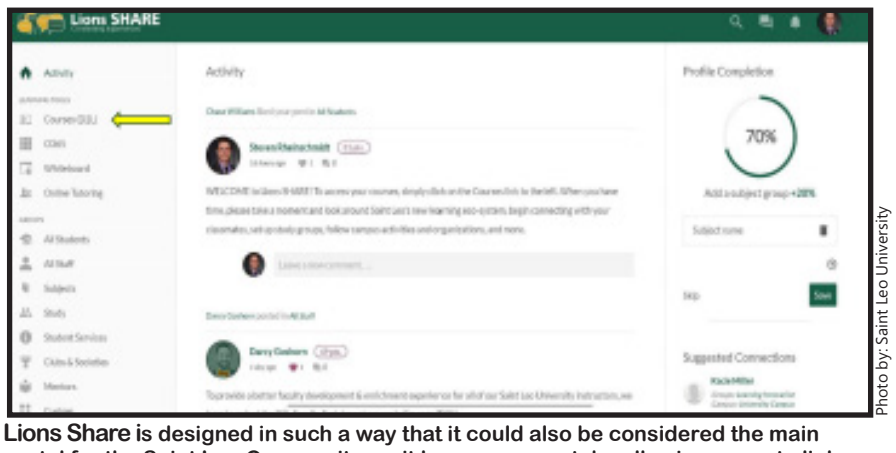

Photo by: Saint Leo University

Lions Share is designed in such a way that it could also be considered the main portal for the Saint Leo Community, as it has numerous tabs allowing users to link out to information.

January 2017 saw the implementation of a new platform within the Saint Leo Community. Lions Share since then, has been placed at the forefront when accessing user accounts and is working to unify the University. The Lions Pride Media Group sat down with Greg Kunzweiler, innovation and implementation specialist in the Faculty Enrichment and Learning innovation departments.

Kunzweiler stated that as a project manager, he has been at the forefront of a myriad of initiatives, focusing on faculty and students. A few of the projects he is currently working on include the Saint Leo students' app, along with Lions Share.

Kunzweiler said, "My role is to interact back and forth with faculty and students to continually enhance teaching and learning at the University." When asked about his work with Lions Share, Kunzweiler stated, "that looking at Saint Leo we are much bigger than the campus."

Kunzweiler continued, "A huge amount of students and faculty are online and at Centers throughout the country. So, what we wanted to do is put together an area that helped build us as a community and get faculty and students online to connect not just with information but to be able to connect socially with each other as well."

Lions Share according to Kunzweiler, is fully utilized when you link into the infrastructure to get information from it such as accessing events and calendars. The software is designed in such a way that it could also be considered the main portal for the Saint Leo Community, as it has numerous tabs allowing users to link out to information.

The most powerful pieces of Lions Share according to Kunzweiler is the fact that, "It is connected to our data system, "Colleague" which is where all student, staff and faculty information is housed. The data includes who they are, what programs you're enrolled in and where you are in the world. The information is then injected into Lions Share, allowing users to have a more personalized system."

He continued, "It is built to be personalized so that you don't have to maintain a static page, but something you can customize with the links that you are frequently using along with the social portion on the back end."

The majority of the activity monitored on the site has been peer support via students. Many students that are new and entering the community find themselves looking to peers for help on a diverse range of areas including financial aid, online class queries and book sharing. Kunzweiler sees the activity between students on Lions Share as a sign that they find the utility where they can feel comfortable interacting with each other.

"The Fall II semester is about to start, and I've seen a few new students to the Saint Leo community saying, 'hey I'm really excited to be apart Saint Leo, this is my first online class,' and they want to know more information from students that have already been in those classes," said Kunzweiler.

Kunzweiler reported that "There are also some groups and organizations on campus utilizing Lions Share, but more so the Worldwide community who continues to promote their events including webinars."

"There are students that offer to sell books and course material there, but one of the most unique and promising pieces in the social community is the encouragement factor that Lions Share has brought," stated Kunzweiler.

He continued, "There are students who post encouraging sayings and quotes there during the week, there was a student that talked about the hardship they had experienced, and within 12 hours, there were 18-20 students who responded saying that I am praying for you, some [even] writing out their prayers."

Seeing the encouragement from student to student, Kunzweiler has taken note of instances where they type in the feed that they are struggling with courses within a semester, and it's one of the best uses of Lions Share that Kunzweiler has noticed. He stated, "The students often chime in to messages, saying 'you can do it,' 'I'm almost there,' 'I had a hard time' and 'I've been there.'"

Students have touted the ability to use Lions Share, according to a post on the site, "Lions Share has been a great addition to Saint Leo, it has helped us connect more and feel more as a community than what we had."

Kunzweiler reflected on the University Presidents Twitter post, quoting Coretta Scott-King, "The greatness of the community is most accurately measured, by the compassionate actions of its members." Kunzweiler believes wholeheartedly in the connection that it brings stating that a student has said that they prefer Lions Share over Facebook, continuing to say that the negative pieces associated with the Facebook platform are eliminated when using the program.

"The expectation that Saint Leo has towards faculty, students and staff involve the Core Values and what we stand for," Kunzweiler said. He believes that this platform encourages the atmosphere of professional dialogue, which focuses on the Core Values.

Photo by : Christian Silva

According to a post on Lions Share, "Lions Share has been a great addition to Saint Leo."

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Campus News

SGU President Gives Update on Future Plans

By Collin Moran

Digital Content

Editor-In-Chief

As Saint Leo University comes to the mid-term of the Fall semester, it signifies the halfway point of many academic classes but is also representative of Student Government Union's Derick McIntosh's first nine weeks in his new position as president. After serving as the vice president of finance last academic year, McIntosh was elected by the student body in February to serve as president for the next two semesters.

McIntosh talked about his transition from VP of finance into the president role as being interesting, especially now that he is in charge of the entire SGU executive board. He explains that the difference between being one of the board members to becoming the person in charge is teaching him to "...be the leader that someone… that the team needs, in terms of checking up on them, you know just making sure that they're good and that we're achieving our…the goals that we set for ourselves". McIntosh explains that one of his main major points is making sure that he and his team achieve the goals that they have set for themselves. There also comes the responsibility of assisting the new VP of finance with their position. McIntosh explained that there is someone new in his old position and that he is "…kind of helping her to succeed in her role, and I'm watching her grow because the role has grown over the past [few] years," as well assisting with the transition to a digital platform that is brand new to the position.

Coming into his senior year here at Saint Leo, McIntosh has big plans for his time in the president's office, some of which include getting jobs for students, improving food accessibility at Saint Leo, creating transportation for on-campus residents, as well as a push for a tobacco-free campus. The first-year SGU president talked about the jobs, food and transportation as being his "three pillars" that he would like to work on throughout his time in office.

One of the biggest plans that McIntosh would like to work on is a way to bring transportation to Saint Leo so that students without cars can get off campus. SGU has "been trying to look at companies like ZipCars" to make transportation more available for students. McIntosh said they would like to bring in a company that provides "more of a personal transportation system, where people can rent vehicles for very cheap prices" but unfortunately the board has "had some issues with that in working with ZipCars, and we were looking into more personal ownership options, in terms of SGU creating their own…our own motor pool," although, they have decided to take a different approach with Zipcar in an effort to try and get a better response. McIntosh acknowledged that the campus sits in an interesting area with not too many businesses within a short distance and with the small size of the population these are "hurdles that we have to come over with such a large company and many large companies as well" when referring to working with a company like Zipcar. He mentioned that the upper administration of the university had been exploring some "really great" options for transportation as well but did not elaborate on anything specific.

Photo by : Wakens Leonard

Another issue that McIntosh is looking to work on is creating a tobacco-free campus. He said that it was "...something that we've worked on two years ago but was pushed back."

McIntosh also spoke about "providing better food services for the students" as he acknowledged that the dining on campus has been "down" and in sort of a "decline." He pointed out the fact that dining services has been short staffed recently and also mentioned the earlier closing time for the dining hall that many students have noticed since school resumed back in August. McIntosh said that the executive board and himself are "...trying to see how we can help [the dining staff] out" because the decline has been "... kind of rough on the staff." The SGU president made mention of an initial thought of "...bringing something like a Chick-Fil-A or something of that sort" to campus but was then abandoned due to that possibly being a part of the wellness plan from the upper administration. McIntosh said that a food establishment of that sort would be in the plans for about 2020, and that is not something SGU "...can really push like now." While the wellness plan has an ETA of around 2020, he could talk further about the planned transition for the bookstore to become a coffee shop. McIntosh said that the coffee shop plans are "...gonna be happening" and that is why "...the books are going through a phase-out process." He explained that part of the reason for the change is because "...most things are going online so every time people try to go get stuff it says 'hey you gotta do this online.' You realize that, so that's kinda why it's gonna be transitioned into a coffee shop." SGU is going to try and play a major role in this change, but it is still more of an "...upper administration piece." When asked if the new coffee shop would possibly be a Starbucks or a Dunkin Donuts, McIntosh said "...I can't really say if it's gonna be branded, I'm not really sure on that."

One of the major initiatives for SGU this year is to work closely with Career Services to help students get jobs and look towards future careers. The implementation of Career Services' Handshake platform was a surprise to the executive board who was planning on creating "...a sort of jobs database app for students," but he cheerfully said they were pleased because it was "...another thing we don't have to do." McIntosh said that SGU would be playing more of an "assistive role" and in turn would have created a "research and marketing committee" that will not only "...help career services promote handshake, but they will also help in terms of creating new jobs for the database." SGU will be busy garnering their own research and jobs that will help students find things "...like internships, or even jobs for students that just want a job to help pay for school or keep money in their pockets." McIntosh said that SGU will be looking for jobs based on the criteria that Career Services has set for them. He said that they will be "... compiling a list on a monthly basis and giving it to Career Service to sort of weave through and you know put on the system." The monthly list would consist of things like internships, paid or unpaid, and the tasks that students would be completing in the job, as well as if they have "...recruited students before and has it transitioned into a full-time job".

Another issue that McIntosh is looking to work on is creating a tobacco-free campus. He said that it was "...something that we've worked on two years ago but was pushed back" and that SGU has created a "...tobacco-free proposal, and it's been sent up to the cabinet;" he believes it was being brought to the board of trustees when they last met earlier in the semester. McIntosh said that he needs to check up with the vice president to see what has been said about the proposal and that the plan would be put into action in one of two ways. The first plan would be to go "zero to 100" as a tobacco-free campus, or to roll out the plan in accordance with the wellness center planned for 2020. McIntosh is aware of the fact that many students are tobacco users, and that "...the rollout effect was taken in consideration instead of just a straight out policy" as to not be unfair to those students.

Since beginning his time in the new role, McIntosh has begun meeting with University president Jeffrey Senese on a semi-regular basis to connect and talk one-on-one about different ideas. The two will be having these regular checkups where they can get more insight into each other's areas such as SGU and the upper administration. McIntosh said that these meetings will allow him to "...see what's going on and be aware" regarding what the upper administration is working on since SGU is "here for the students" allowing them to know what the administration is planning for students. SGU is the "...liaison between that upper administration and the student body," and this allows them to create that transparency between the two sides. McIntosh acknowledged that there will be things that the two sides will work on together and that Senese has shown great support in some of the ideas that SGU has brought to his attention, thus creating a good relationship between the student government and the upper administration. This is not just a connection between the two presidents, but McIntosh also made mention of the other executive board members forming bonds with various vice presidents on campus.

When asked about how his meetings have gone with Senese in his opinion, McIntosh was very optimistic and noted that the University president was very forward thinking and has a vision for the university. He also mentioned that they're "at a point where we're just waiting on certain things to happen, but we do see the steps being made and that's what we like see." Overall McIntosh has been very happy with the way things have gone in his working relationship with Senese saying "...it's been a great experience, surely nothing on the negative side, which is great."

After working under former SGU president Joseph Thompson last academic year, McIntosh talked about carrying on some of his legacy as well as that of Joshua Bartholomew, the president before Thompson. He said the three are in contact almost every day and that they have both helped the transition into the presidency. When speaking about what he learned from Thompson, McIntosh said "... for sure is how to be a better leader" and he "...learned how to manage the team better." He then went on to talk about what Bartholomew taught him, saying "I think I've learned a lot about being visible, just being always being there, making your presence, not known, but making sure people know that you're here, you're supporting them, so I try to be there as much [presence] as possible." McIntosh said that even Thompson might have learned from Bartholomew the importance of building connections with different departments so that you are well connected around campus in case you need help.

Towards the end of the conversation, McIntosh reflected on the upcoming graduation April 27. McIntosh, being a senior, says that it will be a bittersweet day because he has experienced and done so many things here on campus. He ended with saying "Senior year is rough, so that's the part of me that makes me wanna graduate but you know there's gonna be a lot of memories that are left behind and a lot of people, and that's gonna be the bitter part."

Lifestyle

Top Five Haunted Places to Visit in Florida

By Victoria Calvillo
Staff Writer

1.) Haunted Rooms reports that the Seven Sisters Inn is a hotel located in Ocala that people can stay and visit. The hotel is known for its spiritual entities; they are one of the most haunted active hotels in Florida. The Seven Sisters Inn is not shy about what makes them so famous and are open to speaking about their spiritual attractions. Some spirits include three friendly children and a charming man named George. There are a lot of spiritually linked experiences reported at the bed-and-breakfast, making it a must for those who want to experience a genuine spiritual encounter.

2.) The Florida Theatre is notorious for being the home of several spirits. The theater embraces their well-known paranormal activity and offers an "After Hours" tour. The tour investigates the several spirits that inhabit the theater, teaches how to feel a spirit, demonstrates with EVPs that allow you to hear the spirits speak and has a session taking pictures in hopes of capturing the spirits on camera. The tickets range from $34 to $40 and the tours are held at night.

3.) Orlando hosts an American Ghost Adventure tour. The tour takes guests investigating supposed haunted sites, some are well-known and some are hidden gems. The tour lasts for about two hours and is surrounded around the guests having a great time. There is ghost hunting gear loaned to the tourists to help them engage in the activities as well. The fun begins at 8 p.m., reservations are required and tickets are $30 for adults and $20 for children over the age of 6.

4.) For those who are not so into meeting face-to-face with a spirit, then Spook Hill is perfect. Spook Hill involves an optical that causes visitors to experience an odd and confusing illusion. Guests park their car on a white line painted in the middle of the road and the they are instructed to put their car into neutral. This will the cause the car to roll backward, even though it appears to be rolling upward. Some supernatural experiences have been reported to have happened as well.

5.) Another place to visit is Old Polk County Courthouse of Lakeland. The courthouse was built in the early 1900s and has had many reports of supernatural activity. There are a lot of reports of a woman being seen on the second and third floor as well as reports of whispers and screams heard and random cold spots felt around the building.

Photo courtesy of: The Florida Theatre

The Florida Theater hosts ghost tours after hours, allowing visitors to feel like real-life ghost-busters.

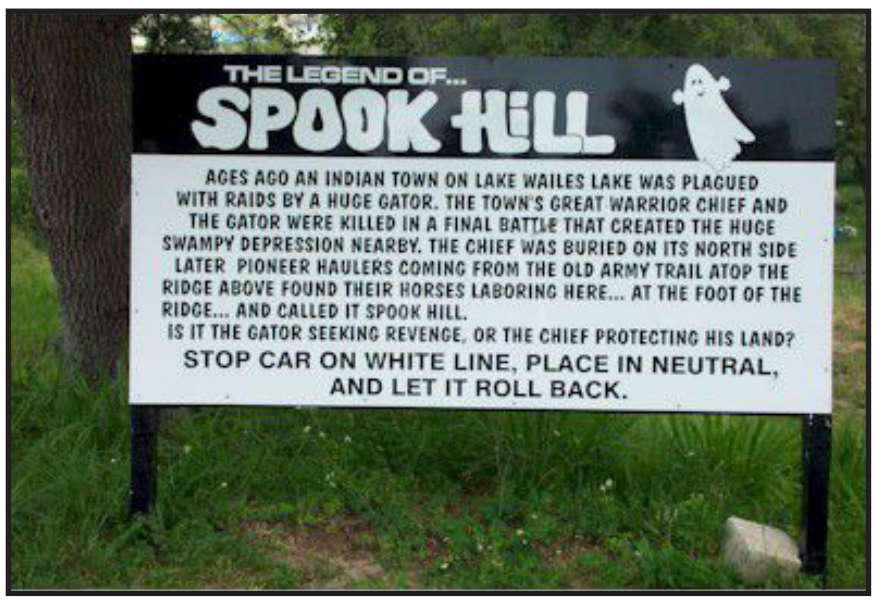
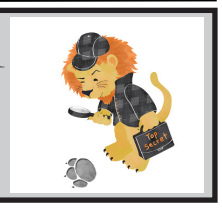


Photo courtesy of: @Tripsaavy

Spook Hill involves an optical that causes visitors to experience an odd and confusing illusion. Guests park their car on a white line painted in the middle of the road and the they are instructed to put their car into neutral

The Lions' Pride Weekly Word Search

" Touchdown with Words"



Slasher Search

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ALIEN
CARRIE
DRACULA
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FRANKENSTEIN
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NOSFERATU
THEOMEN
POLTERGEIST
PSYCHO
SCREAM
THESHINING
THESTRANGERS
THETHING

Security Breach

Editorials

Why You Should Vote For Andrew Gillum

By Madison Whatley
Arts and Entertainment Editor

Andrew Gillum is the current mayor of Tallahassee, Florida's capital city, and has been since 2014. He is the Democratic nominee this 2018 election. Here's why you should vote for him in November:

Gillum is a true Floridian and unlike other Tallahassee politicians. He was born in Miami to hard-working parents: his mother, a bus driver, and his father, a construction worker. He went to grade school in Gainesville and later attended Florida Agricultural and Mechanical University (FAMU) to study political science. While his Republican opponent Ron DeSantis attended Yale and Harvard, Gillum connected to people in this state. During his time at FAMU, he dedicated some focus to African American issues; he worked with the Black Youth Vote Coalition and was recognized by the Congressional Black Caucus Foundation as "Emerging Leader for 2003." His impact was enormous. He was elected to the Tallahassee City Commission before graduating from FAMU at the age of 23, making him the city's youngest commissioner ever. Gillum has shown early on that he is a hard-worker who has earned all of his achievements through education and perseverance while never turning away from the community that raised him. To Gillum, all Floridians matter.

Gillum believes in supporting the working class: Gillum understands that many families are struggling in Florida today. Gillum himself is from humble beginnings and fully credits public education for giving him the tools he needed to come into the successful career he has now. Gillum wants to ensure that all children are given the same opportunity that he was lucky enough to have. For this reason, Gillum has created a "Fair Share" tax plan that would require corporations to pay more of their fair share in taxes by raising the state corporate tax to 7.75 percent, and the state would put that money toward better public education by increasing teacher's salaries to a base of $50,000 and creating more vocational and technical programs. He is against for-profit charter schools that drain the resources of public education, and he is very interested in making college more affordable and debt-free. Gillum also supports paid family leave, lessened local business taxes and a $15 minimum wage to help workers and their families get a leg up, creating a more stable Florida economy reliant on workers rather than the unpredictable nature of tourism. His plan to convert the state to one of "clean energy" to prevent climate change will also create more jobs within the state.

Gillum cares about all Floridians: Gillum is opposed to Florida's Stand Your Ground law and the public safety issue it has caused for black youth like Trayvon Martin and Markeis McGlockton who were shot and killed in this state. Broward County, and the entire state, suffered tremendously and still does because of the shooting at Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School earlier this year, and just over two years ago, we mourned those lost in Pulse Nightclub in Orlando. Gillum is not going to sweep that under the rug. He is in favor of stricter gun laws and holding the National Rifle Association (NRA) responsible. He is in favor of thorough background checks for gun owners and a ban on assault weapons. He is also looking to make the streets safer for women by closing the "Boyfriend Loophole," which would mean prohibiting gun possession for those with felony and misdemeanor domestic violence and stalking convictions. Gillum also sees health care as a right that all people should have, and he will work to support Planned Parenthood and expand Medicaid. He does not want families to struggle over health care, and he certainly is against women or those with preexisting conditions having to pay more for their care. Gillum stands with immigrants and believes in compassionate immigration policies that would never allow for separating families as Trump has done. He is also dedicated to the rights of the LGBTQ community and will defend them against discrimination of any kind. Finally, he supports the restoration of voting rights for former felons who have served their time, which is Amendment 4 on the Florida ballot this November. He believes in learning from mistakes and continuing to contribute to society positively and that all people matter and should be considered in our elections. If you agree, vote "yes" on four to see more fair representation in our elections.

Mayor Andrew Gillum is endorsed by former 2016 Democratic presidential candidate Senator Bernie Sanders. He is a progressive who will moderate Trump's actions and see that all Floridians are treated fairly and with dignity. He has even called for Trump's impeachment based on his ineffective leadership and poor handling of issues.

Photo by: @17FallenEagles

Gillum has created a "Fair Share" tax plan that would require corporations to pay more of their fair share in taxes by raising the state corporate tax to 7.75 percent.

Why You Should Vote For Bill Nelson

By Travis Farmer
Editorials Editor

Bill Nelson is the Democratic candidate for Senate from Florida. Nelson has been a politician in the Senate and House of Representatives since 1972. He is also a former astronaut, having flown on the Space Shuttle Columbia. But what are his views?

Nelson is generally regarded as a moderate Democrat, meaning he does not fall as far to the left as Bernie Sanders or Andrew Gillum, but still not a conservative.

Perhaps the most contentious factor that Nelson is involved in is gun control. Nelson has been given an "F" by the National Rifle Association, but this organization is regularly hated by Democrats in the country and the Senate. Nelson believes in new gun control laws, including an assault weapons ban, a ban on magazines over 10 rounds and removal of the "gun show loophole," in which there would be a requirement of a background check on private gun sales. In the state where two of the worst mass shootings in recent times have happened, it is particularly poignant to have common sense gun control so another Pulse or Parkland cannot happen.

Nelson has also supported banning off-shore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. This drilling threatens Florida's environment and tourism industries, particularly after 2010's horrendous Deepwater Horizon oil spill.

Nelson has also spoken in support of climate change, and introduced an amendment to ban federal agencies from censoring official communications on climate change after Governor Rick Scott directed officials to no longer use the phrases "climate change" and "global warming."

Senator Nelson is also a supporter of LGBTQ rights, having voted in favor of the repeal of the Don't Ask, Don't Tell act, which prevented openly gay and lesbian people from serving in the Armed Forces.

Bill Nelson is being opposed by the Republican nominee, former governor Rick Scott.

Scott is particularly notable for his opposition to Bill Nelson, even calling Nelson a "socialist" which PolitiFact described as a "pants-on-fire" lie since Nelson is a moderate Democrat. Scott is also running advertisements against Nelson criticizing him for being a "lifelong politician." Since when is experience in a political office a detriment? Nelson has been serving Florida for a long term and has never done the state wrong. Why should we stop trusting him now?

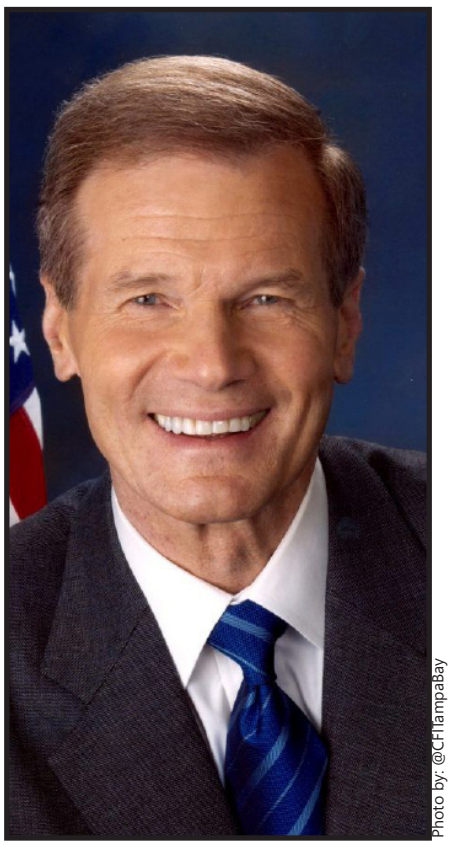


Photo by: @CHampaBay

Nelson has supported banning off-shore oil drilling in the Gulf of Mexico. This drilling threatens Florida's environment and tourism industries.

Editorials

Why You Should Vote For Ron DeSantis

By Maxx Brown
Chairman of College Republicans Club

Ron DeSantis is a qualified candidate on account of being a graduate of Yale University, Harvard Law and being a former U.S. Representative for Florida's sixth congressional district. DeSantis also served as an attorney as well as a JAG prosecutor in the Navy. He will build upon the foundation laid by Rick Scott to keep taxes low, give parents a choice when picking schools despite their zip code and maintain a working relationship with the current administration to keep our environment clean.

DeSantis' relationship with the current administration and his direct line to President Trump will not only pay dividends for the economy but also the vital environment we have in Florida. His environmental policy paper includes a four-part plan which starts with protecting the state's water supply, protecting beaches by banning fracking and drilling off the coast, restoring water flow and preventing toxic algae blooms fed by foul water discharges from Lake Okeechobee. He has used working relationships with Congressman Brian Mast in Florida's 18th district to stop the Army Corps from putting toxic discharges in Lake Okeechobee. He has shown through cutting the red tape and directly addressing issues that Floridians have longed for that we finally have a candidate that can protect our environment at the federal level and state level.

Ron DeSantis' biggest supporter in this race for the governorship is the president himself, Donald Trump. With the recent tax cuts passing last year in 2017 Ron DeSantis is willing and supports not only tax cuts at the national level but the state level. Wanting to build off the great success of Rick Scott, he is a firm believer in keeping taxes low and letting small businesses and corporations flourish. Florida has no personal income tax and has one of the lowest tax burdens in the United States, which is one of the many reasons people and businesses continue to move to our state. He will continue to keep taxes low so that Florida continues to be an affordable place to live, work, retire and visit.

Since Ron DeSantis is a graduate of prestigious universities such as Yale and Harvard, he understands the importance of education for both the families that can afford it and those that lack the resources to send students to top schools. He wants to implement a maximization of Florida taxpayers' investment in our students. Ron DeSantis will fulfill the 80 percent Classroom Spending Plan, which ensures that 80 percent of public K-12 education spending goes directly into the classroom.

He also understands that college is not for everyone much like the military, so he wants to bring back vocational training into our schools for those that do not want to take the college route. Furthermore, he will ensure that all Florida students can go to a good school and empower parents to make educational decisions for their children. He can accomplish this by supporting school choice options such as public magnet schools, district & non-district managed public charter schools regardless of their zip code, Florida Virtual School, home education and the various other choice options.

Ron DeSantis fits the mold to be the governor of this great state. He understands the struggles of the middle class, how expensive education can be for the average family and how important the environment is to Floridians.

Photo by: @WESH

Rick Scott, he is a firm believer in keeping taxes low and letting small businesses and corporations flourish. He understands that college is not for everyone, so he wants to bring back vocational training into the schools.

Why You Should Vote For Rick Scott

By Maxx Brown
Chairman of College Republicans Club

From his time serving in the Navy to starting a multi-million dollar company, to now serving as governor, Rick Scott understands what Floridians need to set the standard for the rest of the nation to follow. Rick Scott is one of the most qualified and desirable candidates to serve in the Senate because of his track record in Florida of a booming economy, his crisis management through the many hurricanes and the education system that has flourished under his leadership. Without Governor Scott's great economic policies, these extraordinary feats would not be possible.

Rick Scott's fundamental and straightforward approach to economics has made the lives of millions in Florida better through increasing job opportunity and keeping taxes low. Since December 2010, the state debt has been paid down by more than $10 billion; this is the most substantial reduction of state debt during one administration in Florida's history. Thus far the governor has reduced property and business taxes and eliminated over 5,000 state regulations to attract businesses to Florida. Scott has also helped create over 1.5 million jobs since 2010. The unemployment rate has dropped from 11.2 percent when he assumed office to 3.8 percent in 2018. Scott's policies have shown that when you invest in families and the American people, every man or woman has the opportunity to live the American dream.

Not only has Scott given people the opportunity to live the American dream, but he also lent a helping hand when natural disaster slammed the precious coasts of Florida and our neighbor Puerto Rico. Governor Scott has proved time and time again that he can handle the enormous responsibility of the preparation for a hurricane and also the rebuild of communities that were affected. Before each storm made landfall, he declared a state of emergency so he could access funds to help communities protect their homes and provide supplies after the hurricane makes landfall. Scott secured federal funding after speaking to vice president Mike Pence and president Donald Trump. Most recently, Rick Scott has sent over 150,000 gallons of water and 175,000 MRE's to those communities affected by hurricane Michael. Not only is he helping those that are affected, but also those that put their lives on the line by opening up the governor's mansion to the state troopers to sleep and have meals. Governor Scott has used both his state and federal connections to lead Florida.

Rick Scott understands the importance of education from the K-12 through the collegiate level. His simple economic approach has allowed for the education system to flourish. Florida ranks No. 1 nationally in numerous categories including 4th-grade reading and math scores, 8th-grade reading level, high school AP enrollment and college education. Many Florida universities rank in the top 100 nationally. Time and time again Governor Scott has shown what can be possible through simple economic policies.

Rick Scott is the most desirable and qualified candidate for the job. He has proven his commitment to the people of Florida and the country and will continue to fight for those that can not fight for themselves.

Photo by: @CFITampaBay

Governor Scott has proved time and time again that he can handle the enormous responsibility of the preparation for a hurricane and also the rebuild of communities that were affected.

WorldWide

SLU Faculty Member Running in An Election

By Randawnique Coakley
Managing Editor &
Worldly Education Editor

Assistant professor of English Dr. Karen Beardslee Kwasny felt compelled to run in the election to be a member of the City Council for the City of Virginia Beach. Kwasny has been a faculty member at Saint Leo University for over 10 years, and she currently is faculty at the South Hampton Road Education Center (SHREC) in Virginia.

Kwasny is running to be the Princess Anne District Representative on Virginia Beach's City Council. She explained the structure and logistics of the city council in Virginia Beach, and she touched on the requirements and general responsibilities of the role as a member of the city council.

"Virginia Beach operates under the Council-Manager form of government. The 11-member City Council is the city's legislative body. The city manager is appointed by the Council and acts as the chief executive officer. Through his staff, the City Manager implements policies established by Council," said Kwasny. "Members of Council serve four-year terms and are elected on a staggered basis. Three Council members and the mayor serve "at large" with no district residency requirement. All others are required to live in the districts they represent and to input to [the] council on the needs of their district members and issues concerning the district. As all council members make decisions on all city issues, council members are also active in and concerned about all areas of the city."

She has lived in the Princess Anne District of Virginia Beach for 16 years, and this is Kwasny's first time running as a member of the city council. She entered the race in April of this year, and she is running against three other candidates in the race to be the Princess Anne District Representative. She has been campaigning, and it has taken up a lot of her time. However, she has the fall semester off, and this helps her to take on the stresses of campaigning.

"Campaigning today is a full-time job, and I am grateful for a wonderful, supportive family and campaign team. We are working daily to get my name out there -- as Virginia Beach is the largest city in the state and it's a challenge to be known in all areas of the city. We will be canvassing neighborhoods in the coming weeks. We have been presenting at forums and debates, meeting with business leaders and organizations, and holding our own fundraisers and meet-and-greets. It's been an interesting, enriching and exhausting six months," said Kwasny.

She mentioned that she found it more difficult to run in the midst of climate set by the current administration due to the national political climate being divisiveness, pettiness and personal attacks. She added that during her campaigning, she unexpectedly experienced some personal attacks, which she described as "misinformed, uninformed and fallacious."

Photo provided by Dr. Karen Kwasny

Kwasny serves as a faculty member at one of the Virgina Education Center: South Hampton Road Education Center.

Despite the struggles of campaigning, she believes that she is prepared. She credited a defining moment in her college career as an experience that pushed her and prepared her to run for this position. The college experience she mentioned was being elected as president of her sorority after her sisters believed that she was a good fit for the role.

"I credit the direction my life has taken this year to my sorority sisters, many of whom are still among my closest friends. In 1987, after just one year in the sorority, they elected me President of Shippensburg University's chapter of Alpha Omicron Pi, an international sisterhood. During my tenure as president, I learned a great deal about myself and my abilities and what it meant to be a good and fair leader of many with many differing views. Still, it was my sisters' faith in me that has given me faith in my abilities to bring about positive change in others," said Kwasny.

Also, she is prepared for the position due to her many years of serving in the community. Kwasny has been an active member of her community and an engaged volunteer for the city. She served three City Council appointed volunteer committees: The Transition Area Interfacility Traffic Area Citizens Advisory Committee, The Virginia Beach 2040 Committee and The Planning Commission as the Princess Anne District Representative. After these volunteer experiences, she became determined to run for the position.

"After seven years of volunteer work in the city, four as a certified Planning Commissioner making land use recommendations to City Council, I determined to run because I felt I was ready to be in a position of actual decision making," stated Kwasny. "I determined to run because members of my

Photo provided by Dr. Karen Kwasny

Kwasny has been interested in local and national politics, but she finds local politics more enriching because the work is a matter of her everyday life and what she does to make a positive difference affects the world outside her front door.

community asked me to consider it. They felt they were not being adequately or fairly represented by the incumbent and their experiences working with me as a Planning Commissioner were quite different. I offered them a fresh perspective and broad representation, and they appreciated that."

Kwasny is also determined to make changes in the community. She noticed problems faced by the city and is driven to help address and solve these issues.

"I saw that the city had real challenges requiring energy and drive to address and solve. I also noticed that negative politics and special interests were getting in the way of forward momentum," stated Kwasny. "Virginia Beach has been slow to grow after the last few years; we need to rethink our direction and make significant changes in how we perceive ourselves and what we offer residents and visitors alike if we want a thriving, vibrant future for the next generation."

Kwasny is excited to implement numerous changes in her community, and this is what drove her to run in the election.

"I have a passion for preserving the city's past, to enhance the present and shape the future. We have significant environmental challenges to face as a coastal city. As well, our infrastructure is much in need of repair and upgrade. I want to be a part of affecting change in these areas. I am also excited about moving this city into the future via new industry, diverse tourism markets, and an emphasis on the value of our agricultural industry," said Kwasny.

She also commented on how she is anticipating balancing responsibilities of being both a full-time faculty at the South Hampton Roads Education Center (SHREC) and a member on the Virginia Beach City Council if elected as the representative for her district.

"It will be a challenge because I don't do anything halfway. However, Virginia Beach City Council members are paid a stipend, not a salary, and they are expected to hold full-time jobs. Their duties as council members are time-consuming, true, but it is not full-time work – or it isn't meant to be," said Kwasny.

Photo provided by Dr. Karen Kwasny

Kwasny has lived in the district she is running in for more than a decade, and her husband is a native of the area, with the majority of his large family still living in the area as well.

She added that this role would give her the ability to help the surrounding community and the Saint Leo University community as a whole.

"The work I have done as a volunteer for the past seven years has taught me a great deal about the city, the region and the state. The information I have gained is crucial to the success of South Hampton Roads Centers. I have my finger on the pulse of the city and the region, and I can assist SLU, SHREC in flourishing via anticipation of demographic and economic shifts that will affect us as a university serving the area," said Kwasny.

She also touched on how Saint Leo and its core values helped in shaping her. She added that faculty members have been a great support system as well.

"Saint Leo is my sanctuary away from the politics of my work with the city, and that is a blessing I didn't expect. As well, Saint Leo's core values are key to the work I do and the person I am. I frequently refer to them in my discussions as they are the foundation of my work both for Saint Leo and for the city of Virginia Beach," said Kwasny. "I am grateful to SLU for shaping me in such fine ways. The people I work with here at SHREC and on University Campus are some of the finest people I know. They are my second family, and I could not do this without their support and love."

Dr. Kwasny's Priorities

Below are Kwasny's main objectives to accomplish if she is elected as her district's representative on the city council.

My 1st priority is resiliency:

We must prioritize funding for stormwater maintenance and repairing and upgrading inadequate stormwater infrastructure.

I am also prepared to engage a regional plan that involves forging partnerships with other localities to leverage relationships for state and federal funding that will assist us in addressing these issues.

My 2nd priority is sustainability:

To be a sustainable city for the future, we must:

1. Reconnect and diversify our agriculture and tourism industries; and using earmarked funding for initiatives that will grow these industries.

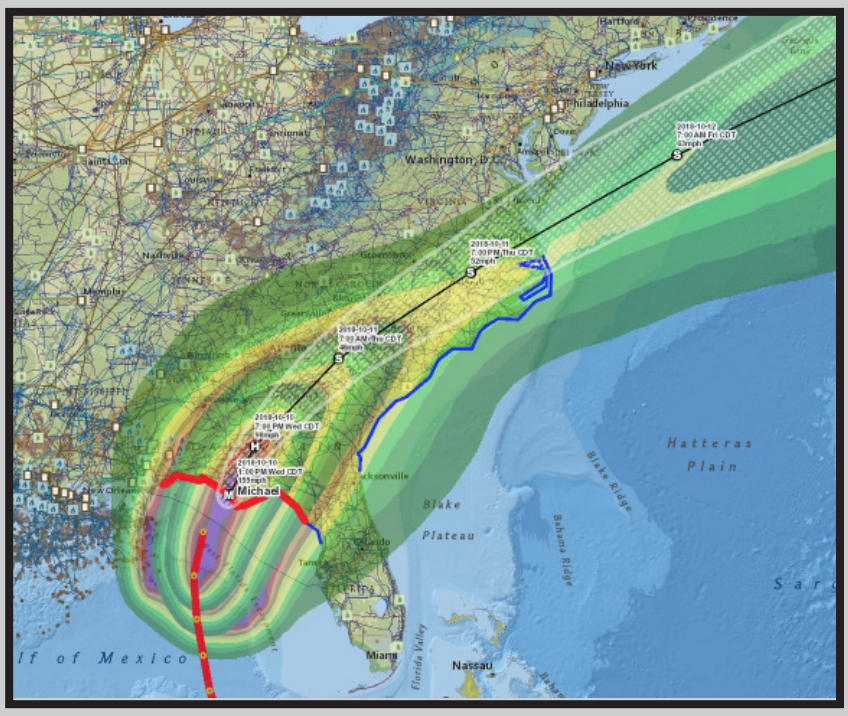
2. Address our military dependency by seeking out NEW industry, such as biomedical, technology, and environmental stewardship.

3. Think creatively about how we redevelop and repurpose our aging retail and office space.

4. Illustrate that we are an inclusive, open to small business, transparent in decision making [a] city that values diversity at the table of business and in life.

5. Emphasize the value of our public safety officials and teachers by providing them [with] adequate and fair pay so that we can compete on a national level for the best

Hurricane Michael Affecting SLU Centers



Graphic Designed by Christian Silva

Hurricane Michael resulted in immense damage. The hurricane's death toll is more than 15, and there are more than one million utility customers from Florida to Virginia without power, as of Oct. 12. Go online to read the article and learn more about the hurricane's impact on the Saint Leo WorldWide community

Arts & Entertainment

"Bad Times" at the Movie Theater

By Charlotte Rubayita
Contributing Writer

The titular hotel "El Royale" is located both in Nevada and California due to a state line that runs through it. But that is not the most interesting feature of the hotel which seems to have been designed for some peculiar activities unbeknownst to the guests. The hotel is often referred to as some sort of "pervert" hotel in the movie, but it is not clear who the perverts are. The pervert(s) could be the engineers, owners and/or management. One of the most interesting details of the storyline was blatantly left out for the viewers to do some guesswork. It is also not clear why the hotel was designed the way it was. It is clear that the guests do not receive the courtesy of privacy but what is the purpose of all of this? The audience watches the story unfold on the surface, however the how and why are left open-ended.

The storyline is bizarre and spectacular at the same time. The lack of depth is what gives the movie its bizarre perception, because it cannot explain the actions of the characters, why there are only four people checked into a hotel that crosses state lines or why the hotel has only one employee. On the other hand, this lack of depth increases the mystery and intrigue, leaving the audience very focused.

However, this kind of mystery is nothing new for fans of noir films. The mysterious strangers all gathered in one place, for the purposes of creating high-end mischief recalls a Tarantino movie-more specifically "The Hateful Eight."

But "Bad Times at the El Royale" focuses so much on the gory details of the plot that it lacks Tarantino's character depth. The violence seems to be there just to be there without adding or supporting the story in any way. In attempts to maximize the gory details, the writers missed out on a chance to develop the characters while still maintaining suspense. The characters are very intriguing, and due to the amazing acting, the audience can tell their backstories are just as complex if not even more. But the characters' backstories are left unexplored with only on the surface information about who they are: a fake priest, a struggling artist, an undercover FBI agent, a war veteran, a former cult member, a cult leader and a cult member. Surprisingly enough, this did not turn into a movie about a cult.

One thing this movie managed to make use of successfully was the music and soundtrack. Most of the music was from the 1960s since that is when the movie is set however Cynthia Erivo's (main character and Tony award-winning actress) musical talents were not put to waste as she performed acapella in various scenes. The use of music was not just to set the mood or transition onto the next scene. The music was almost always part of the scenes and one scene, in particular, had Erivo singing to block sounds and distract from some suspicious

Movie Rating:
2 out of 5 Paws

Photos by @ElRoyaleMovie

Ulterior motives or not, the "El Royale" holds secrets that can only perish in a fire.

Photos by @ElRoyaleMovie

At the "El Royale", you can choose to stay in Nevada or California but be cautious; all items in California are $1 more expensive than Nevada.

Photo by @ElRoyaleMovie

"Bad Times at the El Royale" is living proof that, yes, there is such a thing as too much suspense. There simply isn't enough details to support where the storyline is headed.

Film Reviews Online

Every week, we post reviews of the latest film releases to our website. These are the movies still playing at local theaters that we have reviewed to help you decide if they are worth seeing:

"The Nun"

- "A Simple Favor"

- "The House with a Clock in Its Walls"

- "A Star Is Born"

To read these film reviews and more, visit thelionsprideonline.com and click on the Arts & Entertainment subtab.